

## **HB 152 Property Tax Abatement Requests**

**Short Title:** A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING DEADLINES FOR GOVERNING BODIES TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE VARIOUS PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENTS AND PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS; PROVIDING DEADLINES FOR GOVERNING BODIES TO REVIEW APPLICATIONS, NOTICE PUBLIC MEETINGS, CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARINGS, AND ISSUE DECISIONS; PROVIDING THAT APPLICATIONS FOR VARIOUS PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENTS OR PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS ARE CONSIDERED APPROVED WHEN GOVERNING BODIES DO NOT MAKE TIMELY DECISIONS; AMENDING SECTIONS 15-24-1402, 15-24-1501, 15-24-1502, 15-24-1603, 15-24-1605, 15-24-1802, 15-24-1902, AND 15-24-2002, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE."

**Why the Bill?** Under current law there is no timeline for government entities to process applications for property tax abatements.

**What's the problem?** There is great inconsistency in how long it takes to process applications and get decisions.

This makes it difficult to make planning decisions about a project, budget for the project, and schedule financing and construction

**Why is Columbia Grain, Inc concerned?** Between 2008 and 2011 we made applications on nine projects in Montana. The processing time ranged from 25 to 480 days.

**How does HB 152 help?** It provides a clearly defined timeline to guide the government entities in processing the application on a dependable timeline.

It sets up a 120 day timeline from application to decision.

Lets the applicant know when to expect a decision so they can plan and schedule the project.

<u>Date of Application</u>	<u>Date of Hearing</u>	<u>DAYS</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Location</u>
4/29/2008	6/17/2008	49	Chouteau	Carter build	Carter Shuttle
8/12/2010	5/3/2011	264	Roosevelt	Wolf Point Expansion	Wolf Point Shuttle
1/10/2011	3/28/2011	77	Hill	Elevator Addition	Rudyard Shuttle
3/28/2011	10/4/2011	188	Liberty	Pulse Plant Construction	Tiber Pulse
3/28/2011	4/22/2011	25	Blaine	Pulse Plant Addition	Chinook Pulse
3/28/2011	5/3/2011	36	Roosevelt	Pulse Plant Construction	Proposed Wolf Point Pulse
8/31/2011	12/24/2012	480	Chouteau	Carter Addition	Carter Shuttle
3/16/2009			Plentywood City Council	Pulse Plant Construction	Plentywood
1/10/2011			Plentywood City Council	Pulse Plant Addition	Plentywood